VIII. *An Account of a præternatural Bony Subſtance found in the Cavity of the* Thorax, *communicated in a Letter to Dr.* Rutty, *by Mr.* William Giffard, *Surgeon.*

ON *Tueſday*, *May* the 10*th*, 1726, I open'd the Body of a Perſon, who dy'd the foregoing Day of a *Peripneumonia*; in the right ſide of whoſe *Thorax* I found an oſſeous Subſtance about the fourth of an Inch thick, ſix Inches long, and three broad, extending it ſelf under the third, fourth, fifth and ſixth Ribs, cloſely and ſtrongly connected to the *Perioſteum* of the Ribs, and the *Tunica propria* of the inner Intercoſtal Muſcles, by Fibres which ſhot from a ſtrong and thick intervening Membrane, which cloſely adher'd to its outer Surface or Back, and was continu'd over its inner likewiſe, thereby forming a *Capſula* for this præternatural Subſtance. Its upper Edge lay immediately below, and was contiguous to that Part of the Ribs, where they become cartilaginous: The Membrane that adher'd to, and cover'd it, continu'd thick ſome diſtance from it, and gradually grew thinner, and was at length loſt in the *Pleura*; from whence I judg'd this extraneous Body to have been form'd between the two *Lamellæ* of that Membrane. The Lungs ſo ſtrongly adher'd to its Inſide, that upon ſeparating them, part remain'd to it: Upon cutting into which, I obſerv'd all the Cells ſtuff'd with a thin, but ſomewhat digeſted *Pus*.

Upon farther Enquiry, I found on the ſame ſide, towards the Back, another Subſtance, but perfectly Bone, inveſted as the former, with a ſtrong and thick Membrane

brane, and by the Fibres which ſhot from it, tied to the Body of the *Vertebræ*, and the fourth, fifth, ſixth and ſeventh Ribs, and Intercoſtal Muſcles.

Its Back or Outſide was convex, agreeable to the concave Surface of the Ribs, which had made Indentations on that part of it where they preſs'd: Its Inſide was concave as the Ribs; the right Lobe of the Lungs ſtrongly adhered, part of which for that reaſon remained to it after Separation: Its Length was about ſeven Inches, Breadth about three from Edge to Edge: Its Thickneſs, in ſome parts a third, in others a fourth of an Inch. It had, as the former, a thick Membrane running from it, which gradually thinning was at length loſt in the *Pleura*; from whence I judge this extraneous Subſtance to have been formed as the forementioned.

" Since Mr. *Giffard* has not inſerted the Particulars " of this Gentleman's Indiſpoſition, I ſhall add, that " upon Inquiry, I have ſince been inform'd, that he " was troubl'd for ſome Years with a ſhort Cough, " which latterly was accompanied with a difficulty " of Breathing, and great Labour in Inſpiration; and " ſome time after, with a Weight and Pain on the " right Side; which Symptoms encreaſing more and " more, brought on the *Peripneumonia*, of which he " died in a few Days. The Riſe and Succeſſion of " thoſe different Symptoms proceed ſo naturally " from the Formation and Growth of this præterna- " tural Body, as well as the particular part of the " *Thorax* where it was lodg'd, that it is entirely need- " leſs to ſay any thing more upon them.

W. Rutty.